

Comments from Robert L. Johnson, PE

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For what it is worth:

To property owners that have closed out their sites under a MRBCA evaluation, it seems to them that, after years of investigation costs and estimated remediation costs at hundreds of thousands of dollars, MDNR is simply selling Certifications of Completions for \$5000. Even MDNR doesn't expect to do any real monitoring of property usage, a responsibility that should be left to local authorities, not State technocrats.

These property owners are glad to be out of MDNR programs and are not voicing their displeasure over these circumstances.

Why is it called Risk-based Corrective Action?

There's no complete risk analysis and no corrective action.

Very few sites are actually cleaned up, just found to not require further action (for \$5000 paid to MDNR).

The sites never posed a significant environmental problem in the first place, and this could have been documented using existing applicable rules & common sense.

Also, RBCA is not "risk-based" because it does not consider the *probability of exposure*, only zero exposure when a route is eliminated or presumed current ongoing exposure otherwise.

Even if the exposure route is not eliminated

the probability (risk),

that someone will actually be exposed

to the 'contamination' as presumed in calculating health risk factors,

(the *probability* that someone will actually eat dirt

or actually drink shallow untreated groundwater for years on end),

is usually very small and this is not taken into account.

The policy "to err on the side of caution" eventually simply becomes a policy of error.